

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027964  
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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII:SKG

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NEA:ARLAY(SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027964

FOL REPEAT CAIRO 2012 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JCS/DOD CNO  
CINCUSNAVEUR COMSIXTHFLT ALEXANDRIA DTD 3 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, EG, US

SUBJECT: USN VISITS TO EGYPT IN 1977

1. FOLLOWING FAHMY'S DINNER FOR SYG WALDHEIM LAST  
NIGHT AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S APARTMENT, FAHMY,  
DEPUTY PRIMIN/MIN WAR GAMASY AND I HAD A LONG TALK ON VARIOUS  
MATTERS. ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND INFORMAL AND I DECIDED THE  
MOMENT WAS RIGHT TO RAISE THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL USN  
SHIP VISITS TO EGYPTIAN PORTS IN 1977.

2. I RECALLED THE ARRANGEMENT WE HAD WORKED OUT LAST  
YEAR WITH GAMASY AND FAHMY PERMITTING FOUR USN SHIPS  
TO VISIT EGYPTIAN PORTS DURING THE YEAR. AS GAMASY  
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KNEW, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ADHERE TO THAT CONCEPT. (WE IN FACT  
HAD FIVE VISITS IN 1976.) WE HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR  
EGYPTIAN HOSPITALITY, AND I THOUGHT GAMASY WOULD AGREE  
THAT EACH OF SHIP VISITS HAD GONE WELL. I KNEW,  
HOWEVER, THAT USN HAS A PROBLEM CONNECTED WITH THE  
LACK OF VISTATION PORTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.  
IT WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF USN

VISITS TO EGYPTIAN PORTS IN 1977. I WANTED TO PUT THE MATTER TO GAMASY AND FAHMY PERSONALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY SO THAT THEY COULD LET ME HAVE THEIR FRANK REACTION. WE HAD NO WISH TO EMBARRASS THE GOE AND, IF IN THEIR VIEW POLITICAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS MADE SUCH AN INCREASE UNDESIRABLE AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD UNDERSTAND.

3. GAMASY'S INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF SOME RELUCTANCE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER. HE NOTED, AS HE HAS BEFORE, THAT WHENEVER A USN VISIT TAKES PLACE, HE RECEIVES ALL SORTS OF QUESTIONS. ASKED HOW MANY VISITS WE HAD IN MIND, I SUGGESTED PERHAPS EIGHT. GAMASY THEN QUERIED FAHMY ABOUT THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF AN INCREASED NUMBER OF SHIP VISITS. FAHMY WAS VERY HELPFUL. HE SAID THAT, AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, THERE SHOULD BE NO INSURMOUNTABLE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. AFTER ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES OF DISCUSSION, GAMASY GAVE HIS AGREEMENT TO EIGHT USN SHIP VISITS A YEAR. WE ARRANGED THAT I WILL LET HIM KNOW INFORMALLY ABOUT THE DATES OF PROPOSED SHIP VISITS BEFORE ANY FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE IS SENT REQUESTING CLEARANCE. HE CAN THEN LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANY REASON MILITATING AGAINST A VISIT ON THE DATES WE SUGGEST.

4. I TOLD GAMASY AND FAHMY THAT WE APPRECIATE THEIR POSITIVE RESPONSE. WE WOULD CONTINUE TO HANDLE SUCH USN SHIP VISITS EXACTLY IN THE WAY THE EGYPTIANS WISH. TO AVOID ANY FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING, I ALSO TOLD GAMASY THAT I COULD NOT PROMISE HIM ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR THIS GESTURE. HE WAS AWARE, OF COURSE, OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE OF THE USN TO EGYPT IN SUEZ CANAL AND PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE AND IN OTHER WAYS. GAMASY SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING IN RETURN.

COMMENT: WE HAVE MADE A BREAK-THROUGH ON THE MATTER OF USN SHIP VISITS. WHILE I DID NOT AGAIN RAISE THE SUBJECT OF CORRESPONDING USN VISITS TO ISRAEL, GAMASY KNOWS FROM OUR LAST PERTINENT DISCUSSION THAT WE SEEK TO BALANCE SUCH VISITS. I AM COMMUNICATING SEAPARATELY WITH CINCUSNAVEUR IN LONDON RE A PROPOSED 1977 SHIP VISIT SCHEDULE WHICH HE HAS SENT TO ME.  
EIAUAS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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